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Alcoholism claims more women victims



There are more than 2m alcoholics in West Germany. This makes alcoholism the most common disease in the country.

Most and more women are hitting the bottle. They drink nearly as much as men, although their taste differs.

They go more for liqueurs, and they drink less in pubs and at work and more in the home — often alone.

Women also more often combine drinking with taking tablets.

Average alcohol consumption in West Germany is 149 litres of beer, 26 litres of wine and eight litres of spirits per head.

Of course there is, even among women, hidden alcoholism at work. They take shots in coffee or thermos flasks.

Often they break out into sweats or have difficulties concentrating and try to cover this up to colleagues by saying they stayed up late the night before, had a party, or that it is a "woman's illness."

And if the truth gets out, bosses usually respond by threatening dismissal rather than recommending a cure. But this pressure often only increases dependence on drink.

A group of ex-alcoholic women in Frankfurt have got together to form a "cured women alcoholics" circle under the aegis of the Protestant Regional Association for the Treatment of Addictive Diseases.

Most of these women say that before they became alcoholics they indulged in "controlled" drinking for months and even years.

Of course it is difficult to pinpoint the moment at which the person becomes addicted. Many women have been in this circle for 10 years and are fighting for themselves and others against a relapse in a society which overwhelms its members with advertising for drink.

Statistics show that every citizen (the statistics include babies) spends on average DM600 on alcohol every year.

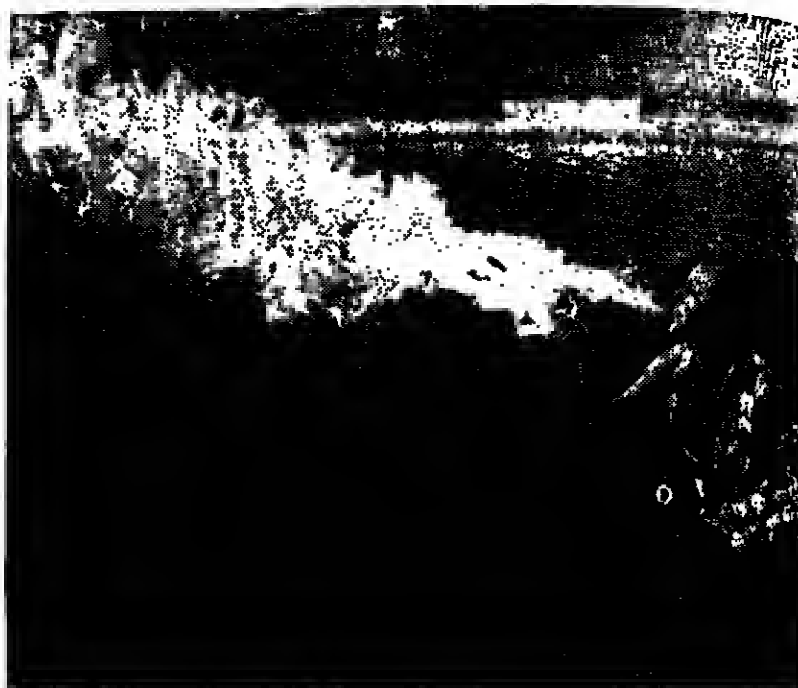
Dr Roland Langer of the Frankfurt Bürgerhospital, confirms that the number of alcoholic women is increasing, despite greater consciousness of their social role.

The relapse rate for alcoholism is estimated to be as high as 20 per cent. If this is to be reduced, not only medical therapy but psychological back-up measures are urgently needed.

Increasing alcoholism has increased the importance of the advice given by church counselling centres to alcoholics.

The addicts counselling centre of the Protestant Church in Frankfurt reflects the big city situation, Frankfurt and its satellites having a population of 1.5m. The range of church organisations advising and counselling addicts is very wide: 73 parishes are involved.

Deacon Sorgenfrei, one of the counsellors, says that one typical aspect of addict counselling in Frankfurt is "the importance of personal help. We also try



Playing with fire

Irene Knobel, a 25-year-old Berlin girl who lives in Hamburg, is probably the only professional fire-artist. Madame Flame is her stage name, and despite her job she claims to have suffered no more than the odd blister as she travels to fun fairs.

to be up to date in methods of treatment and outpatient therapy. We are open and flexible to new modes of treatment."

It is wrong to try to neutralise daily stress by alcohol and tablets. The point is to take joint action against ill-making conditions — and no one knows this better than the women that have been working in the anti-alcohol circle in Frankfurt for the past 10 years.

This does not mean that the problem of alcohol is on their agenda at every meeting. But these women have had similar experiences and so similar questions tend to arise: how can I cope at work? How can I regain the trust of my family? And, finally, how am I to find my place in society?

Elke Gerken

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 March 1980)

Child labour

Continued from page 14

their part-time jobs. Jens' class, Svan, works in his friend's garage repairs drink machines in the gap a friend who is an apprentice electrician. "I get DM15 to DM20 an hour. It's ready almost a fully-fledged mechanic."

Many children also do paid work at home — sticking parcels, mending dresses and so on. Stress begins for these children after half an hour. Other children doing this kind of work are under 13 and their mother claims it is their own.

Most of the young workers are used to keep the money they earn themselves. They buy cassette machines, headphones, bikes and mopeds, furniture for their rooms. Five-legged, revolving chairs are in at the moment.

These children are working for fun. Instead of doing without consumer goods, they are losing time for play for their own childhood — an irrevocable loss. In 1979 the Council of Europe recommended that more should be done to make parents aware of the effects of child labour, which they generally underestimate. After all, children's jobs are only following adult's example.

Child labour was made illegal at the beginning of the century. In the 19th century children worked in factories, mines and small firms. Millions of children in the Third World suffer the same fate today.

According to statistics of the International Labour Office in Geneva, there are 29 children working in South Asia, 9.7m in the Far East, 9.1m in Latin America and 3.1m in Latin America. When they work like adults, these children often do not have enough to eat.

And every year many children die in these countries because they do not have enough work to survive.

Against this background the increase in child labour in the rich industrial nations of the West, where children work for superfluous consumer goods doubly reprehensible.

The Labour Office estimates that there are 700,000 children working in Europe. But the real figure is much higher. There are an estimated 400,000 children working in North America alone.

Elke Gerken

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Schmidt bides his time on Moscow invitation

Helmut Schmidt seems in no hurry to take up Mr Brezhnev's renewed invitation to visit Moscow. He is only too well aware of the imponderables.

The foremost is the unpredictable course of events in and around Iran. Another is the intentions, course and results of Mr Gromyko's travels.

Herr Schmidt is not the man to shirk the challenge he faces in the Kremlin, but despite his self-assurance if he does not go he will have given up the chance of full-scale crisis management.

It is an extremely thankless task and overtaxes the Federal Republic's powers regardless of the international importance that West Germany is agreed to command.

Besides, the Bonn Chancellor is in the midst of a general election campaign. He can afford neither to assume a twilight role nor to fail in any mission he might agree to take on.

So he must first coordinate his moves with Bonn's allies, and intensive coordination is required. This alone is difficult enough, as recent weeks and months have shown.

A no less important criterion that will have decided him whether to accept the Kremlin's invitation or not is the extent to which the Soviet Union appears willing to go back on a stubborn and headstrong position.

So far we have been limited to conjecture in the quest for motives. One argument is that the Soviet Union

Legitimation for this step, including moral justification, was derived from Bonn's share of responsibility for the 17m Germans in the GDR.

This approach is, however, liable to be accused of wishful thinking as long as there is no clear indication that the Soviet Union might be prepared to toe the line.

Moscow must be now have realised the negative consequences of the Soviet adventure in Afghanistan, a country it can no longer pacify militarily, although it might yet do so politically.

The Third World countries Moscow has come to regard as its natural allies in the fight against actual and alleged imperialism have pointed accusing fingers and are calling on the Soviet Union to withdraw.

The United States, which in Soviet eyes is weakened in both its military and mental powers of resistance, governed by a weak President and involved in a crisis with Iran, has nonetheless summoned the strength to respond drastically.

But Moscow's gravest miscalculation may yet prove to have been its judgment of Bonn, both over NATO's decision to develop a new generation of medium-range missiles and over the Olympic boycott.

The Kremlin's judgment may have appeared for a while to be backed up by controversy within the Social Democratic Party in West Germany and within NATO.

But that would have been to underestimate Chancellor Schmidt and his powers of stamina.

Herr Schmidt endorsed the NATO decision.

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Günter Mittag (left), GDR Politbureau member in charge of economic affairs, conferring with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn on intra-German ties. The Chancellor is widely expected to meet GDR leader Erich Honecker soon. (See page 3).

Bonn maintains its policy of building bridges with East

Bonn wants its policy of coming to treaty terms with East bloc countries wherever possible to be kept clear of the eddies of international crisis.

It has every intention of doing this in conjunction with its allies.

This is particularly true of ties with the GDR as regulated by the Basic Treaty with East Berlin.

The visit to Bonn by GDR Politbureau member Günter Mittag, who is in charge of economic policy, is seen by the Federal government as confirmation that the GDR likewise still retains the option of seeking to benefit from ties with West Germany on as normal a basis as possible.

But, if the GDR only retains this leeway because the Soviet Union is keen to convey the impression of business as usual so as to stop Bonn from siding internationally with the United States, this policy should reach its limits before long.

In recent months Chancellor Schmidt's entire policy has been directed at postponing for as long as possible the moment of truth at which it was to be seen whether full solidarity with the United States could be reconciled with Ostpolitik as hitherto pursued.

He was hoping something might happen to alleviate the crisis and has continually built bridges, both nationally and in the EEC, to enable the Soviet Union to relax the tension.

But the Soviet response has so far been none too encouraging. The reply to a personal note to Mr Brezhnev was most unsatisfactory.

This was, in the final analysis, the reason why Herr Schmidt finally failed to reiterate his assurance that he would visit Moscow if only Mr Brezhnev were to renew his invitation.

Circumstances are steadily forcing Bonn to close the gap between it and the United States and Mr Brezhnev has asked whether the Chancellor might like to visit Moscow this summer.

It is Olympic summer in Moscow, and the Bonn Government has just summoned the courage to advise its athletes not to take part.

Besides, the proposed date shows that Mr Brezhnev is still in no great hurry. Crisis could mount before Herr Schmidt has had time to visit the Soviet capital.

So the Chancellor will have no option but to clarify Bonn's viewpoint beforehand.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 17 April 1980)

Fears that heroin scourge will get still worse



Oskar Schröder (Photo: Horst Zimmermann)

has received a mere 45m dollars," says Schröder.

Up to now, the US has shouldered the best part of this burden — 4m dollars.

Now Washington has had enough of this and said that in future it will only contribute 25 per cent of what is paid in

by all other countries. The fund's income will inevitably be cut — despite the fact that Bonn has upped its contribution from DM0.5m to DM2m.

Dr Schröder praises the Japanese shipping industry, which donated 400,000 dollars to the fund. He added that the UN fund would also be grateful for private contributions from West Germans.

The fund's account number is 777, Deutsche Bank, Bonn (UNO Rauegift Fonds). The German United Nations Society will provide receipts to be presented to tax offices.

Clearly, money alone cannot solve the problem. A number of industrial countries — including France, the UK, the US and Japan — have still not signed the 1971 International Drugs Agreement aimed at controlling chemically produced drugs.

And in the UN Commission the poppy-growing countries are mutinying, arguing, understandably, that the industrial nations insist on them stopping poppy production but are reluctant to control their own production of chemical drugs.

Horst Zimmermann

(Bremser Nachrichten, 1 April 1980)

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Historians debate differences between Nazism and Italian fascism

Argument is that the Soviet Union has openly reverted to brutal power politics and itself rent the romantic veil of détente.

Another, while not denying what has happened, such as the brusque rejection of NATO's negotiation offer and the invasion of Afghanistan, assumes miscalculation on Moscow's part, and thus possible readiness to correct mistakes.

Were the first argument to be nearer the truth, an escalation of tension and an unprecedented arms race would inevitably ensue.

Yet this prospect of this ghastly alternative has motivated Europe in general and Bonn in particular to reopen the Kremlin's avenue of negotiation.



Lambsdorff opens Hanover Fair

Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff (second from left) takes a closer look at a Brazilian commercial vehicle engine exhibited by one of 170 Brazilian exhibitors at the Hanover Fair. He was accompanied by Brazil's Industry Minister Jose Camilla Penna (left).

(Photos: dpa)

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HOME AFFAIRS

Lines clearly drawn for crucial State poll

Election campaigning is in full swing in North Rhine-Westphalia, where voters go to the polls on 11 May. More than 12 million voters are eligible to cast their votes in a key state assembly poll five months ahead of the October general election.

All parties are quick to deny that the North Rhine-Westphalian elections will in any way be a pointer to the outcome of the Bundestag poll, but these denials mean no more than that the parties are unsure of their prospects in the Rhine and the Ruhr.

None of them want to nail their colours to the mast, but once voting is over they will all be badly speculating on the likely outcome of the 5 October general election.

The fronts are clearly drawn. The Social and Free Democratic coalition in Düsseldorf, led by SPD Premier Johannes Rau and FDP leader Burkhard Hirsch, is determined to retain power.

To oust them the Christian Democrats, led by Heinrich Köppler (until his untimely death of a heart attack on 20 April) and Kurt Biedenkopf, need to gain an absolute majority.

The two major parties are following different strategies at different levels in their bid to decide the outcome.

The Social Democrats are doing what all parties who can lay claim to a popular Bonn Chancellor have always done. They are setting great store by Helmut Schmidt.

This is their best bet of papering over the fact that Düsseldorf Premier Johannes Rau has not made much of a reputation for himself even after 18 months in office. Heinz Kühn, his predecessor, was in another category altogether.

The SPD also field arguments relevant to Bonn as to why voters must ensure continuation of the SPD-FDP coalition in North Rhine-Westphalia.

If North Rhine-Westphalia were to go Christian Democrat the present Bonn government would be in the minority in the Bundesrat, or upper chamber of the Bonn Bundestag.

Helmut Schmidt would then be unable to govern in Bonn and it is up to voters in the Rhine and the Ruhr to help keep Franz Josef Strauss out of the Bonn Chancellery by voting for Johannes Rau in North Rhine-Westphalia, the Social Democrats say.

Thus the SPD has opted for the classic approach of calling on voters to vote for B as a gesture of support for A, whereas the CDU has chosen to fight the campaign on state issues.

The Christian Democrats are critical of Herr Rau and the work of a somewhat jaded SPD-FDP coalition. Their specific points of attack are education (comprehensive schools), indebtedness, bureaucracy and energy policy.

The SPD is accused of criminal negligence in failing to forge ahead with the construction of coal-fired power stations. It is also said to be given to double talk on atomic energy.

The CDU reckons the present state government is jeopardising the industrial future of the Ruhr, and between Duisburg and Dortmund this is an argument that will always be given an attentive hearing.

Forecasts of the election outcome are a risky business. Much will depend on the turnout, on the showing of the Greens (as ecologists dub themselves) and on the voters' reaction to the death of North Rhine-Westphalian CDU leader Heinrich Köppler.

Will sympathy result in electoral gains? His illness certainly motivated CDU fieldworkers to canvass even harder for their party.

In 1975 the state election turnout was 86 per cent. At present there are no signs that this record will be equalled, let alone surpassed.

Yet a high turnout is the key to SPD success, as the party well knows. Mobilising voters in the Ruhr is thus the prime objective.

The Social Democrats' campaign slogan is merely "Go and Vote." There is no mention of specific political objectives but it is obvious what worries the SPD.

Many SPD voters failed to turn out in

both the European Assembly elections last June and last autumn's round of local government elections — to the benefit of the CDU.

In Baden-Württemberg, where the SPD fared none too well in state elections recently, turnout was unspectacular too, while campaigning is sluggish in the Saar, which goes to the polls a few days before North Rhine-Westphalia.

People in the Rhine and the Ruhr are a level-headed lot. Will the parties succeed in motivating them to flock to the polling-booths?

The entire climate of home affairs is no more than lukewarm at present. Social Democrats are using Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss as a whipping boy to canvass support.

Contrary to their original intention the Christian Democrats have accordingly decided to phase down Herr Strauss's campaign commitments. In the last four weeks of the North Rhine-Westphalian campaign he will make only eight speeches, mainly in safe country areas.

Unlike Bremen or Baden-Württemberg, bastions of the SPD and the CDU respectively, no one party can expect to gain an absolute majority in North Rhine-Westphalia.

So the Greens, were they to scale the five-per-cent hurdle and enter the Düsseldorf state assembly, could wreak more havoc in North Rhine-Westphalia than elsewhere.

It is by no means impossible, although far from probable, that the Greens might prevent either side from gaining the 101 seats needed to form a majority government.

Tien turmoil would be unleashed indeed, but the Greens are more likely to fall foul of the five-per-cent clause, in which case their votes will be shared by the others.

The CDU is more likely to benefit from this share-out than the SPD, while the FDP, which polled 6.7 per cent last time round, stands a chance of political survival, although it is by no means out of the danger zone.

Anything could happen. The reins of government in Düsseldorf could well change hands. Then again, they might well not.

As in Lower Saxony, the CDU would then have gained an absolute majority of seats without the backing of an absolute majority of votes cast. So a few thousand voters could well decide the outcome.

Wolfgang Mauersberg
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 14 April 1980)



Heinrich Köppler
(Photo: Marianne von der Laan)

Death during campaign

Heinrich Köppler, 54, CDU leader in North Rhine-Westphalia, died 20 months only three weeks before assembly elections in his home State.

He led the Christian Democrats in the campaign, but had a heart attack over Easter and was taken to a Düsseldorf hospital.

A spokesman for the CDU said he had probably died of a second heart attack after an encouraging recovery.

Christian Democrats in North Rhine-Westphalia were shocked by the news. Köppler had intended taking an Easter break from electioneering.

But his heart let him down. An operation eased the pain so much that after a few days he was back receiving campaign managers at his sickbed.

Signs of improvement were deceptive, however. He died on the eve of a by-election in a general election year.

His posts he held with such vigour he had won him out. He was deputy chairman of the CDU at national level, chairman of the executive committee of the North Rhine-Westphalian CDU as well as leader of the party's Rhine-Ruhr region.

He was also Shadow Premier and Opposition leader in a State assembly and Bundestag election in miniature.

His life story was neither adventurous nor problematic. He always kept his balance, partly due, perhaps, to his not being a professional Roman Catholic, as he dubbed himself.

From Catholic youth leader in Wiesbaden, in 1946 he rose to general secretary of the Central Committee of German Catholics, a post he held from 1956 until 1965.

He skirted membership of the Hitler Youth by active service, as it were, in the first working on the land after the war, then read law at Erlangen and Mainz.

He embarked on a political career in 1949, going to Bonn as private secretary to Bundestag Speaker Köhler. But he did not become a Bonn MP until 1965.

Three years later CDU Interior Minister Ernst Benda appointed him parliamentary state secretary, but in 1969 he went into state politics in North Rhine-Westphalia.

In North Rhine-Westphalia he showed himself to be more than a political elbowing his way to the top. Fierceness and consideration were always typical of Heinrich Köppler, especially towards political adversaries.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 21 April 1980)

PEOPLE IN POLITICS

Genscher in limelight as Schmidt and Strauss keep low profiles

The Foreign Minister and leader of the Free Democrats, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is getting as much publicity these days as Helmut Schmidt and Franz Josef Strauss.

Chancellor Schmidt is keeping a low profile. He does not want to be politically dismantled in this critical election year.

And with Strauss hesitantly taking on the mantle of the statesman, Genscher is left with more room on the Bonn stage.

Genscher seems to be making speeches and giving interviews everywhere while others remain silent. On Afghanistan, Genscher advocates a tough, uncompromising policy towards the Soviets. Now he and basically he alone has to rescue the FDP from the dangerous maelstrom of the three forthcoming elections.

Can he do all this on his own? The FDP leadership wants to play down the idea of a duel between Schmidt and Strauss and replace it with the concept of a troika of three dominating political figures — in which Genscher plays an equal role.

In truth Genscher is in danger of becoming Bonn's major entertainer, if not its sole entertainer. He uses the chances of a good master of ceremonies in innumerable election campaign appearances and by means of statements via party headquarters or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the cabinet, he reigns alongside Helmut Schmidt and defends the bastions against the left. He talks with foreign ministers and ambassadors from every country under the sun. Can a politician survive such a gruelling programme?

Genscher, the great integrating figure within the FDP, certainly need not complain about lack of profile. But is it the right profile? Genscher represents the FDP more than any other party leader can claim to represent his party. But this also means that the FDP is measured against Genscher.

The FDP must surely feel rather awkward when it hears its lord and master constantly being praised by the Opposition for his "tough line" in foreign and disarmament policies, when conservatives describe him as the "hardliner" of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Has he put the brakes on détente — without considering many of his FDP voters?

Genscher does not see it in these terms, at least not today. Genscher interprets his attitude as follows: "The Foreign Minister cannot take electoral considerations into account."

He says he is now doing no more and no less than what a German Minister of Foreign Affairs has to do in this situation. And besides the formula of balance of power as the condition for détente was not his invention. This was known long before the Afghan crisis.

This could allow us to conclude that Genscher, who became Interior Minister in the first SPD/FDP government in 1969 and Foreign Minister when Helmut Schmidt succeeded Willy Brandt, was sceptical about the Brandt-Scheel outpouring from the start.

Genscher says that he was not sceptical but level-headed about it. He said he



always believed Soviet policy was expansionist in tendency and Moscow's present neo-imperialist approach of towards the Third World confirms him in this analysis.

But this does not affect his willingness to negotiate — given a balance of power.

With the Afghan crisis Genscher, from being the administrator of foreign policy, became its guardian and the censor of aberrant nuances in the case of Wehner and Brandt. He has, in his opinion, few differences with Helmut Schmidt, in foreign policy or in other fields.

He says that his relationship with the Chancellor has been "an uninterrupted positive development." Genscher's relations with the SPD as a whole are not so good and for him the question of the future of the coalition depends largely on the future shape of the SPD.

He does not say this in a headmasterly way. But he must take the future development of the SPD into account as he soberly works out plans for the FDP's survival.

Genscher's job as Foreign Minister brings greater burdens than ever before. And at the same time he is the linchpin in the FDP election campaign.

This is an almost incredible accumulation of tasks. How far can he push himself? Where is the limit? Genscher himself does not seem to be worried about his ability to bear these burdens. It may seem like a contradiction, but the

constant and repeated warnings to him to look to his health in recent years seem to have given him new strength.

He feeds, physically and psychologically, on the realisation of his own limits. He has reduced the number of entries in his appointments diary and he tries to keep weekends free — for reading documents, not for relaxation.

More important, Genscher has come to realise that his strength is not unlimited. This has given him greater composure, the ability to withdraw into himself in the midst of turbulence. He remains constantly vigilant, as determined as ever to be everywhere and know everything, even if it has to be by telephone.

But he has also learnt that the government and the party will have to get by without him some time and he thought no longer perturbs him — he will then just be an ordinary MP or work as a lawyer in Bremen again.

He cannot say when this will be, though. It is not in his view a question of age. He says every man has creative phases, which come to an end some time. Six years ago he was determined to leave the government at the end of the then that session of parliament. But when Walter Scheel became President, Genscher had to, and wanted to, stay.

He has now been party leader for 6 1/2 years and a government minister for 10 1/2 years. He knows that "there are certain offices to which one cannot go on giving infinitely."

Now, as he faces his toughest ever challenge, he feels in fine form. This may be normal for a Foreign Minister, even in times of heavy pressure. But for an FDP leader who in past years has,



Hans-Dietrich Genscher

alone, climbed giddy heights and suffered severe blows it is nothing short of a miracle.

Defeat in Lower Saxony, recovery in Hesse, neck-and-neck in Schleswig-Holstein, the sigh of relief in Baden-Württemberg: defeats and victories in the FDP are put down not exclusively but largely to the account of the party leader.

And this is the great risk for Genscher. If the FDP should falter on the Saar or fail to defend its bastion in North Rhine-Westphalia, then his star will wane. So despite his new found composure, Genscher has to fight.

This is what drives him to appear constantly on the political stage. There he does not act as the gifted statesman destined from birth to make history.

Will power, energy, credibility and an uncanny sense of what is tactically necessary make Genscher a unique phenomenon in German politics. He has never been a dsredevil — more a man who has made walking the political tightrope an art form. Thomas Meyer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 April 1980)

Kohl begins to overcome disappointment



Helmut Kohl
(Photo: Marianne von der Laan)

was a trial of strength. Two years later, the leadership of the party fell into his lap, so to speak.

After the 1976 general election, Kohl resigned as Prime Minister and moved

to Bonn to take over as leader of the Opposition. He found the going in the Bundestag tough. In Mainz he had been the undisputed master but in Bonn he not only had to cope with the Chancellor and the coalition but was also plagued with quarrels in his own party.

The CSU's Kreuth resolutions led to a trial of strength with CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss which almost destroyed the CDU/CSU.

The stronger and louder the criticism of his weakness as a leader became, the more sensitively Helmut Kohl reacted, withdrawing into a small circle of confidants who did not always give him the best advice.

Now that the problem of the Shadow Chancellor has been resolved, Helmut Kohl is becoming his old self again. He is more relaxed, self-confident and composed, and he is regaining his former political force.

The dream of the Chancellery is has probably flown for ever, even though he would still be young enough for this office in four or eight years.

By then there will be other Land Prime Ministers in line for the job. Now he will probably remain leader of the Opposition, regardless of the result of the Bundestag election.

And there is many a post one can imagine Helmut Kohl filling.

Werner Bollmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 April 1980)

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sion riot, as Soviet propaganda subsequently claimed, so as to have shown himself willing to oblige the Pentagon.

He was genuinely worried that manufacture and deployment of Soviet SS-20 missiles were assuming alarming proportions from Europe's point of view.

At the same time it was mainly his government that persuaded NATO to combine the decision to rearm with an offer to negotiate a stop to the missile arms race.

The Soviet Union also assiduously overlooked (as did a number of pundits in Washington) what was clearly indicated in the communiqué issued after the January consultations in Paris between Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The West German and French leaders had pointed out that it was up to the Soviet Union to create the conditions that would enable the Moscow Olympics to go ahead as planned.

Moscow would need to withdraw from Afghanistan, but this could only lead to

even greater confusion in the United States.

This was because had set his ultimatum deadline too narrow, not even allowing the Soviet Union a theoretical prospect of at least starting the withdrawal.

So Mr Brezhnev's invitation has not been extended to a politician unsure of himself or likely to lose much sleep over where German priorities lay.

The circumstances of crisis in Afghanistan and Iran have proved testing for both NATO in general and ties between Bonn and Washington in particular, but they have also shown they can stand the test.

Opinion polls have shown that West Germans favour détente by an overwhelming majority, but although they are concerned to keep the peace there is not a majority in favour of policies without or against the United States.

Any attempt to carry out policies of this kind would be sure to lead to the collapse of the Bonn coalition led by Herr Schmidt and his Foreign Minister Hans Genscher.

The Chancellor has reminded the

Soviet Union of its share of responsibility in Iran so as to dispel the last doubts as to where Bonn stands.

On the UN Security Council, Moscow condemned the taking of US hostages and called for their release, yet the Soviet Union prevented a later Security Council decision in favour of imposing sanctions on Tehran.

The Kremlin would be badly mistaken if it were to believe it could warm its hands at a fire lit by a criminal and likely to set the entire world in flames.

Whether or not Herr Schmidt visits Moscow will not depend, as SPD leader Willy Brandt, a man with less resilient nerves, maintains, on an Olympic boycott.

To resolve crises their causes must be cured, not their symptoms. If Mr Brezhnev does confer with Herr Schmidt he can be sure to be at the receiving end of some plain speaking.

The Chancellor is not a cold warrior but he is not given to standing to attention either — neither to Messrs Brezhnev or Carter nor to the views of his party, the Social Democrats. Hans Schmitz
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 April 1980)

■ TRADE

International oil marketing plan ready, but 'no need for drama yet'

There is no need to be over-dramatic about energy supplies now the Iranian crisis has come to a head, says Bonn government spokesman Armin Grinewald.

Dismissing rumours that the government planned to ration motor fuel and heating oil, he admitted that Bonn was increasingly concerned about energy supplies.

But the Economic Affairs Ministry reassuringly reported that emergency tanks held a larger than usual contingency reserve of oil to keep the country going if supplies were interrupted.

All over the world larger reserves of crude oil and refinery products have been built up than ever before. In West Germany reserves should last 120 days.

Oil companies reckon there is no real difficulty in getting hold of crude oil at present. But when supplies are short the price goes up. Had it not been for events in Iran this trend would have levelled off for a while.

They are reluctant to forecast the extent to which they might be able to offset a substantial shortfall, let alone a complete breakdown in supplies from Iran.

Last year Iranian oil made up 10.7 per cent of West Germany's oil consumption. In the first quarter of 1980 it accounted for nearly 15 per cent.

A shortfall of seven per cent or more would automatically trigger an international crisis plan providing for market controls. Similar contingency plans have been drawn up the event of sanctions against the Soviet Union.

West Germany relies on the Soviet Union for more than seven per cent of its oil supplies too when refinery products are taken into account as well as crude oil imports.

What, for that matter, about supplies from Libya? Saudi Arabia is Bonn's largest oil supplier. Libya comes a close second. Then comes, on the basis of last year's figures, Nigeria, Britain and Iran.

Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, recently announced in a German TV interview that no country could be sure of always receiving supplies of Libyan oil. He continued to regard oil as a political weapon.

There was no question of supplies to West Germany being in any doubt at present, though, since relations between the two countries were good.

Crisis arrangements have been drafted by the International Energy Agency, Paris, and all major industrial countries except France have agreed to abide by them.

These contingency plans come into effect the moment any one country reports a shortfall of seven per cent or

more. Then all member-countries must pool supplies, both imports and domestic production.

A wide range of precautions have been taken to ensure that pumps do not run dry in West Germany. Such ample supplies have been stockpiled that a shortfall of one third could be offset for a year without restrictions needing to be imposed.

But the government would not like to make immediate use of the 90-day stockpiles oil companies have been required to keep in hand. The Economic Affairs Ministry plans to offset a shortfall first by saving energy.

In keeping with Western contingency plans Bonn would impose a variety of restrictions on energy consumption. Administrative arrangements have been made for a three-stage plan, details of which were disclosed towards the end of 1979.

A fairly relaxed approach is envisaged in the event of a shortfall not exceeding 15 per cent. There will be appeals to save energy, speed limits and weekend driving bans.

Moves at this stage will be concentrated on pruning private consumption, making as few inroads as possible into industrial and commercial consumption.

Oil companies will set up a clearing house facility to cope with difficulties encountered by individual firms.

If this state of affairs lasts for any length of time, however, emergency stockpiles will need to be used, whereupon the next stage of the contingency plan will take effect.

Once the shortfall reaches between 15 and 30 per cent petrol, diesel and heating oil rationing will be introduced. Industrial and commercial users will again enjoy priority.

Industrial consumers would coordinate the use of naphtha as a petrochemical raw material. Coal and natural gas would be used in place of oil in power stations and for industrial heating.

At this stage too use would be made of the emergency stockpile.

Were the shortfall to exceed a third, the situation would resemble a war footing and a comprehensive range of restrictions would be imposed on all oil products and all consumers.

Measures to estimate supply and demand and enforce rationing are all based on the provisions of the Energy Safeguards Act, which empowers the Bonn government to take all necessary legal and administrative action.

By the terms of the Act ration coupons have been printed and supplied to local authorities since last year, while heating oil consumers are already advised to save their oil bills to back up their claim for supplies in the event of an emergency.

Purchases over the past two years are to be taken into account in determining ration allowances.

Bonn would much prefer not to have to put these plans into action but Dieter von Wurzen, state secretary to the Economic Affairs Ministry, has reiterated that all energy consumers must do their bit to ensure that the country is no longer abjectly dependent on oil supplies.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 April 1980)

Tension might hit dealings with East bloc

Trade between West Germany and the East bloc may well be tense between the United States and the Soviet Union, DIW, the West German economic research institute, forecasts.

The efficacy of economic sanctions against the Soviet Union must be overrated, it claims. A number of West German firms would be hit harder than Soviet industry as a whole.

Overall economic growth rates are expected to suffer in either country to any great extent. All told, economic relations between the Soviet Union and Germany are of minor importance. Imports in either direction are for less than half a percentage of GNP. This employment effect is also with the Soviet Union is also over the institute claims in its latest survey.

Sanctions would mainly affect manufacturers and mechanical engineering (capital investment goods).

But sanctions could not be fully forced except, perhaps, in the sector. Gaps could be plugged by re-supplies via non-aligned countries.

"So a reduction in exports to the Soviet Union seems unlikely to have a lasting effect on Soviet economic growth," the survey concludes. Trade with European members of the East bloc Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, was up 13 per cent last year to DM3.1bn, largely due to unusually high price rises.

This figure did not include German trade with the Soviet Union, largest Western trading partner by a wide margin.

West Germany is the Soviet Union's largest Western trading partner by a wide margin.

Inside-out knowledge of the industry

Esch knew what he was talking about. He knew the construction industry inside-out. And he came to the industry followed at a distance by the DIW.

The main items supplied by West Germany are steel rolling mill equipment, steel pipelines, machine tools, mining and motor equipment.

In these sectors West Germany accounts for between a fifth and a third of Soviet imports. Russia mainly imports high-grade technology from West Germany. He landed his first job: sales manager with for Kaltenecker at a monthly salary of DM3,000.

In return it mainly supplies oil and important raw materials. According to the Berlin research institute's figures, West Germany imports 55 per cent of its enriched uranium (457 tonnes a year), 16 per cent of its natural gas and six per cent of its petroleum from the Soviet Union.

The percentage for palladium is 18 per cent, for cotton 18 and for asbestos thirteen.

These figures clearly indicate the importance of trade between the two countries. Imports from the Soviet Union are for a much more important share in the German market sectors.

If increasing political play is made with East-West trade DIW fears consequences for what it terms the expensive and so far safest source of material supplies. West Germany has both sides have an economic interest in maintaining trade, but at present

Horst-Dieter Esch, 36, who has over the past five years built up the large construction machine business in the East bloc, claims he doesn't believe in accumulating possessions.

Esch's deeds prove one thing at least: he is not yet satisfied. But he really is interested in possessions as he claims? His meteoric career has given rise to admiration, but also to distrust. He, or rather the company he controls, IBH Holding AG, owns 11 companies which produce construction machines, employ 200 people and have an annual turnover of DM1.2bn.

Why, if not out of desire for possessions, has Esch built up this company in a short time? Why does he now want to start expanding in a big way by taking into the North American market, as he announced after his last takeover four weeks ago?

If possession is not the motive — and Esch has long been able to rectify this via non-aligned countries — then there can only be one other reason: Esch wants to prove he is right, to show that his idea of a company specialising in construction machines only was right. Comecon, the East bloc Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, was up 13 per cent last year to DM3.1bn, largely due to unusually high price rises.

Other products and would not survive a crisis.

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Construction machine tycoon got his start with accidental meeting

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later he bought Hanomag, a subsidiary of the Canadian company Massey-Ferguson, for DM30m. Hanomag, based in Esch's home town of Hanover, was in trouble, but Esch dangles that sentimentality played any part in his buying it.

What made him buy was the excellent reputation enjoyed by Hanomag tractors, excavators and wheel-loaders, and the excellent sales outlets.

Hanomag is the biggest company IBH Holding AG has taken over so far. It has 2,700 on its payroll and an annual turnover of DM400m. However, in the past two years, the company has lost DM160m.

If Esch can make Hanomag profitable again, IBH will definitely be here to stay, Esch describes the figures for the first quarter of 1980 as "fantastic".

His most recent takeover pleased him even more than the initial success at Hanomag. On 1 April he bought 83.33 per cent of the shares of the Wibu Hartmann AG from the Hamburg merchant bank of Schröder, Münchmeyer, Hengst and Co. (SMH).

It has not been officially confirmed that Esch paid nothing for the shares but it almost goes without saying. So far one member of the Hartmann board and some managers have resigned — a familiar feature of Esch takeovers.

Outsiders were surprised, however, that SMH, one of the country's leading merchant bankers, have also bought shares in IBH Holding AG. They bought 7.4 per cent of IBH shares at a nominal value of DM750,000 — but at an amazing issue price of 2,000 per cent they actually paid DM15m.

It must have been a dream come true for Esch now that he could boast a shareholder virtually embodying solidity, reliability and a sterling reputation — qualities with which outsiders are rarely credited.

Count Ferdinand von Galen, a personally liable shareholder in SMH, justified his bank's investment by pointing out that IBH had always made profits. And he considers Esch "a very able man." Esch has long been of this opinion. He wants to make Galen the "biggest private banker in Europe." Esch's exuberance at his latest coup cannot be explained by the financial aspect alone. Of course Esch hopes that with someone of Graf Galen's standing on the board there will at last be an end to the suspicions and doubts.

Many draw parallels with another sudden rise

The sudden rise of Horst-Dieter Esch has many parallels, a lot in common with that of Hans Glöggler, who went bankrupt with his hastily put-together textiles concern.

Others quote the case of the British asset-stripper Jim Slater, who bought up and then "plundered" companies. Esch occasionally played backgammon with Jim Slater.

However, Esch vehemently denies that he is a bit of a gambler. One night he won DM20,000 at backgammon and gave it to his wife to console her for his frequent absences, but he does not regard backgammon as a game of

chance and he would not stake a penny in a game like roulette.

No doubt Esch will for some time be haunted by the comparisons with Glöggler and Slater. He prefers to be compared with steel boss Willy Korf or computer constructor Heinz Nixdorf, both of whom had similarly meteoric climbs to fame.

But Esch finds it difficult to gain the trust of the public. He has more success with his employees. The works council at Zettelmeyer, the first company he took over, gave him a standing ovation at the last works assembly. And at Hymac in England, his workers fought pickets to get to work. "And I'll soon have the workers behind me at Hanomag," says Esch.

More success with staff than with public

It is apparent that Esch is looking for trust when he talks of his plans to take on the big American construction machine companies and the Japanese giant Komatsu. When Esch is explaining his ideas, he cannot sit still.

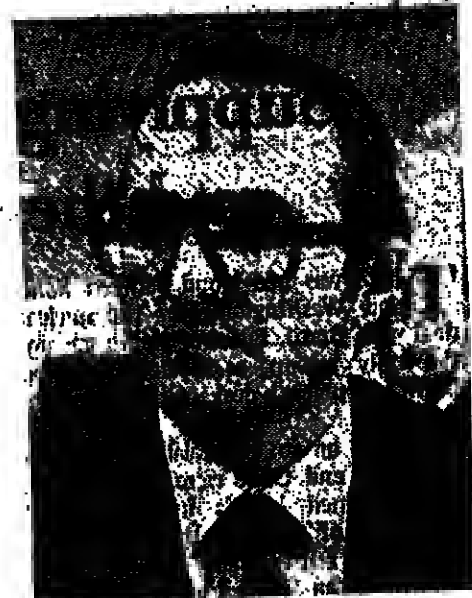
He goes up to his interlocutor, produces tables and brochures, sells his ideas and himself. There is no trace of the coldness he has been accused of. A manager he sacked put it poetically: "A deep freezer is a radiator compared to Esch."

One thing Esch has plenty of is self-confidence. He believes he could put the sizzling giant electric concern AEG back on its feet. But for the time being he must be content with being Mr Big at IBH.

He only holds 23.2 per cent of the shares but has over 76.9 per cent of the voting rights. All IBH shareholders — except for Powell Duffryn, which has 23.2 per cent of shares — transfer their voting rights to Esch for life, as he says.

Esch does not find this at all unusual. "It is the most logical possible thing. If I want to buy a company in America and my shareholders tell me not to my whole plans will be ruined. Then I may as well pack up and go home." Graf Galen also approved of "the company founder remaining master in his own house."

IBH shareholders are certainly in for surprises. Over Easter Esch went off on a business trip to the USA. Asked whether he had bought a company as part of his plan to conquer the US market, Esch answered laconically: "Whenever I go off on business, something is bought or sold." He did not say, however, that he had bought the company Peter Christensen & Co. (Die Zeit, 11 April 1980)



Horst-Dieter Esch (Photo: Hanomag)

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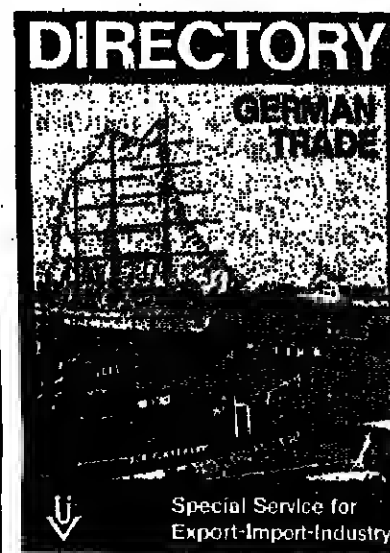
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■ NUCLEAR ENERGY

Supplying the wherewithal overseas, and thereby creating a dilemma

There was bad blood between Bonn and Washington over the nuclear deal with Brazil. But sour grapes was not the only reason, as a closer look at Bonn's nuclear deal with Argentina shows.

A year or so ago relations between Argentina and Chile were at a low ebb. Both claimed islands in storm-tossed seas south of Tierra del Fuego where oil fields were felt to exist.

Argentinian leader Jorge Videla threatened to press his finger on the nuclear trigger, whereupon Chilean leader Augusto Pinochet grudgingly conceded the disputed islands to his Andean neighbour.

Well, he didn't really, of course, but this scenario might well have happened if General Videla had succeeded in developing an Argentinian nuclear device and been unscrupulous enough to use it.

In point of fact the two dictators had sufficient common sense to accept arbitration by the Vatican. In much the same way as Alexander VI, the Borgia Pope, shared out the spoils of the New World between Spain and Portugal in 1493.

Yet the spectre of nuclear war between Argentina and Chile is more than a bad dream. Nuclear pundits are convinced Argentina could by now be the owner of its own nuclear warheads if it had only wanted to go ahead with development.

Ignorance or hypocrisy are thus the only possible explanation for the dispute over whether or not Kraftwerk Union, a Siemens subsidiary, should be allowed to supply the Argentinian dictator with a second reactor for Atucha nuclear power station.

Criticism has nonetheless been voiced in anticipation of the go-ahead from the Bonn Cabinet. Members of the Social Democratic parliamentary party are deeply unhappy about the deal.

Brigitte Erler, an SPD member of the Bundestag scientific research committee, has warned that Bonn may be providing Buenos Aires with the wherewithal to build an atomic bomb.

She conceded that no supplier of nuclear installations could undertake technical measures to ensure that the recipient used them solely for peaceful purposes.

But that was clearly not the main reason why she objected to the deal. What upset her more was that Argentina is governed by a military junta.

If Argentina could only be prevented for a number of years from gaining access to sufficient nuclear know-how to build the bomb, she argued, the junta would at least not be shored up by Bonn.

Indeed, Bonn could be instrumental in forestalling a power realignment in Latin America that might well assume onerous proportions.

Argentina is both a threshold country credited with sufficient nuclear know-how to build an atomic bomb and a non-signatory of the 1968 nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Since the Argentinian government is not answerable to parliamentary controls it is hardly surprising that warnings have been sounded.

India too was once a threshold country and non-signatory of the non-proliferation treaty but has now joined the



nuclear club by virtue of fissile material siphoned off from the production line of a research reactor supplied by Canada.

Atucha I is a 340-megawatt nuclear power station designed and built by Kraftwerk Union in Argentina. It runs on untreated uranium and has been in operation since 1974.

Experts reckon that spent nuclear fuel rods probably contain up to 100 kg of plutonium a year, and plutonium can be separated from uranium by chemical processes with which advanced developing countries should be conversant.

So Argentina could well have stockpiled and separated enough plutonium from the nuclear waste it has accumulated since 1974 to build several atomic bombs.

Separating lethal plutonium, with an atomic weight of 239, from uranium 238 is relatively easy. Separating fissile uranium 235 from non-fissile uranium 238 is much more difficult.

Uranium 235 and uranium 238 are chemically identical isotopes and differ solely in physical terms. They can only be separated by means of extremely expensive physical processes.

This requires some such unit as a gas centrifuge that is capable of exploiting the slight difference between their atomic weights.

Argentina resolved to build a nuclear power station using natural uranium fuel since it had its own uranium deposits and was not dependent on supplies of enriched uranium from the great powers.

As a coolant and in order to keep fission in check Atucha I relies on deuterium, or heavy water. So will Embalse, a 600-megawatt power due for completion in 1982 with Canadian technical assistance.

Argentina imports its deuterium from the United States and Canada, but in mid-March Buenos Aires reached agreement with a Swiss company on a plant to supply 250 tonnes of heavy water a year.

This would make Argentina both no longer dependent on the United States and Canada as deuterium suppliers and able to build or commission a new 700-megawatt natural uranium nuclear power station every three or four years.

Shortly before the Swiss contract was signed an article in the *New York Times* claimed Argentina could use its heavy water installation to build an atomic bomb.

In fact Argentina will not be any less

dependent on deuterium imports for at least six years until its heavy water plant is in operation.

Besides, that will not assure it a nuclear potential either. That Argentina already has, albeit to a lesser present extent.

Canada failed in its bid to secure the contracts for both Atucha II and the heavy water plant even though, in the 700-megawatt power station's case, it underbid Kraftwerk Union by \$400m.

So criticism of Argentina's nuclear development programme can be seen in another light. The United States and Canada also strongly objected to the nuclear deal between Bonn and Brazil, allegedly because the contract was not awarded to US firms.

Yet criticism from the United States and Canada must not be dismissed solely as sour grapes. Both Germany and Switzerland must face the music on the main argument advanced by their critics.

It is that by delivering the goods to Argentina they are enabling another threshold power to join the nuclear club, especially as Argentina is a non-signatory of the non-proliferation treaty and may reasonably be suspected of harbouring nuclear ambitions.

But a number of industrialised countries that are not members of the nuclear club also had grave misgivings about the non-proliferation treaty. They were worried ratification would hamper the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Bonn was one such objector, and this view is shared by many developing countries that are also quick to suspect the nuclear haves of a desire to limit their sovereignty.

Ever since the first Indian nuclear device was exploded in May 1974, four years after the non-proliferation treaty came into force, suppliers of sensitive equipment have invariably insisted on assurances by their customers that it will only be used for peaceful purposes.

These assurances are as binding legally as the non-proliferation treaty, and in the case of Atucha II Argentina is quite prepared to give them and to reach agreement on inspection procedures with the International Atomic Energy Authority in Vienna.

Bonn claims Argentina has accepted the controls on which it insists. Details are not yet available, but since they reportedly tally with IAEA provisions it seems fairly certain they do not go as far as the United States would like.

Washington wants inspection of nuclear capacity independently developed and built by Argentina too.

One might, of course, argue that paper is easily signed and that dictators

Dealings with East bloc

Continued from page 6
litical tension looks like taking pride of place over economic considerations.

This tension cannot fail to affect the other Comecon countries' plans for trade with the West too, it is noted. Trade with the East has stagnated since 1976 and an opportunity of boosting it looks like being missed.

The Comecon countries are currently drafting five-year plans for 1981 to 1985,

so now would be the time to step up trade, but DIW does not expect growth rates to be as high as in the early 70s where West Germany is concerned.

Yet overall conditions have taken a turn for the better, since East bloc countries are now running at less of a deficit in trade with West Germany. So economic leeway for an increase in trade is there for the asking.

Peter Weertz

(Die Welt, 10 April 1980)

do not enjoy much of a reputation for worrying too much about such matters of this kind.

This is true, but parties to the proliferation treaty can just as well regard their treaty obligations as no copper-bottomed guarantees. Countries will stand by their commitments.

This is a risk that must be taken as an alternative (if there is one) of risk of excluding the power of the world from development.

What is more, developing countries without oil reserves of their own have been particularly hard hit by rises and are thus more dependent on some substitute oil.

Argentina does have oil reserves of its own but in the end will be in this position too, however, it is more than a self-supporting in oil and gas.

Experts agree that there is a danger of preventing the number of new oil fields from increasing. In the past it has been argued that great powers are more careful in their use of oil than small fry. Since Afghanistan has again seemed dubious to least.

So the 700-megawatt nuclear reactor KWU is under contract to supply Argentina with nuclear power. Buenos Aires with nuclear power does not already have, in quantity in quantity.

Whether Bonn ought to risk clashes with the United States over Argentina's account is, of course, a matter. There are arguments on both sides with Washington as it is.

Yet another is whether it is a stigma another overseas nuclear power when the domestic construction has already hit West German nuclear industry hard.

Jobs are equally threatened by mothballing of two Kraftwerk Union reactors in Iran on which construction brought to a halt by that country's nuclear revolution.

The unfinished ruins of the nuclear power stations are now a sore on the Persian Gulf and a no-go area for an investment in West German technology that one could already see fit to write off.

New horizon

Continued from page 6
than detente, with a mixture of hope and suspicion.

GDR politicians occasionally show how happy they would be if they could be convinced that the entire East Bloc can only benefit from smooth relations between Bonn and Berlin.

The Bonn Government is in a similar position. True, the *Adenauer* has said that only the Soviet Union and not the other East Bloc countries will be affected by trade restrictions, boycotts, but a demonstrative economic relations between the German states would not be expected by US public opinion.

So the Bonn talks between the Minister of Economic Affairs, Lambrecht, and Chancellor Schmidt are more of a sounding out with assurances of good will. Speculations are unlikely.

Both sides will have to wait and see how East-West relations develop in the coming months.

Joachim Neumann

(Die Zeit, 18 April 1980)

■ THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

European manufacturers worried at potential of Japanese

European motor manufacturers are worried about competition from Japan.

Toyota, Nissan (Datsun), Mitsubishi, Toyo Kogyo (Mazda), Honda and Fuji Heavy Industries (Subaru) have made their mark on European markets.

Europe may have seen the birth of the automobile nearly a century ago. It may have lent Japan a crucial helping hand when it embarked on its modernisation during the Meiji era.

But the boot is now on the other foot. Japan has for some time been the world's major car exporter. This year it exports to outstrip the ailing US motor industry in unit production.

This would make Japan the world's No. 1 motor manufacturer, but it is evidently not enough. Japan seems determined to expand production capacity for private cars.

Yet Japan is no newcomer to European motor markets, so why there should be such a song and dance at this stage?

Its share of the European market is a mere 7½ per cent in any case, partly because several EEC countries, especially France and Italy, have been determined to keep Japanese cars out.

Despite this, motor manufacturers are still crying about Japanese competition. Leading manufacturers, particularly Giovanni Agnelli of Fiat, are lamenting in Brussels about the "Yellow Peril."

So they are more worried than the present state of the market would appear to warrant.

European self-assurance is still sufficient for them to feel more than a match for Japan in technology, though to judge by the rapid progress in Japanese design this is no longer the certainty it might once have been.

But the industrial power and the unbounded determination to export shown by the major Japanese manufacturers are increasingly causing upset and anxiety.

Recent developments have played a leading role in fostering this spirit of dejection. The productivity edge Japanese manufacturers enjoy over their European counterparts has if anything increased, for instance.

A car worker in Toyota City, say, puts in on average 20 per cent more hours than his opposite number in Rüsselsheim (Opel) or Stuttgart (Mercedes) per year.

What is more, he works more effectively, not only because he is more dedicated in his approach to his job but also because he is backed up by a more up-to-date and more automated production apparatus.

Last year a special additional factor was the decline in the exchange rate of the yen against the Deutschmark, which further improved the competitiveness of Japanese exporters.

European manufacturers have little to set against these advantages, with the result that Japan has gained ground in the West German market, largely at the expense of competition from other EEC countries.

By February 1980 Japan's total share of the West German market reached 7.9 per cent, and it was panic stations all round when Honda held cooperation talks with British Leyland and Nissan with Alfa Romeo.

This Japanese bid to gain a foothold in leading European companies unleashed a previously suppressed desire to resist what was felt to be the outline of a new strategy.

Prospects for the future are what worry European manufacturers most. What happens in the United States will, of course, play a leading role.

If US auto workers and their trade unions step up pressure on Washington to impose import restrictions on Japanese motor vehicles, frustrated exports to the United States will surely be redirected to Europe.

Japanese manufacturers must make sure at all costs that their capacities are fully used and that they do their national duty as employers and foreign exchange earners.

Their attention will be directed first and foremost at the West German market with its unlimited access, and the signs are fair for a marketing offensive.

Japanese companies have modernised their private car ranges, and as they have been relieved by the yen exchange rate of the need to impose price increases they are currently more competitive than

ever, especially after the latest round of price increases for locally-manufactured cars.

Even if there is no change in the United States, Japanese makes will surely account for about 10 per cent of West German sales between them by the end of the year.

Export prospects for other EEC countries will be correspondingly poor, which is why the French and Italians in particular are keen to discuss Common Market quotas for Japanese cars.

What, then, about the West German industry?

Domestic manufacturers have so far manfully upheld the banner of free trade, as well they might given the reliance of West German motor manufacturers on export sales.

This is the only logical and consistent approach they can take, and on this point West German and Japanese manufacturers' interests tally.

There can nonetheless be no mistaking an increasing tendency to protect on the part of European manufacturers.

Their lament is that West German motor manufacturers are benefiting on export markets from the import restric-

Small models pay off for Volkswagen

been tentatively dubbed the Erika by the Cologne works.

Ford and Opel seem to have been resting on their laurels, and the reaction now they have been caught napping is one of either "I told you so" or of trenchant criticism.

Ford and General Motors have trouble enough in the United States and have arguably run their German subsidiaries for all the profit they can milk from them of late.

Having failed to keep pace with model changes they are now passing the buck to the social security system that pays workers broken time for shifts during which they are officially laid off, competitors claim.

But they are by no means alone in going into the red at the upper end of the model range during the first two months of 1980.

Nearly 40 per cent fewer large Audis were sold by the corresponding Volkswagen division in January and February, while the Peugeot 504 sold at less than half last year's pace.

As demand changed, importers reckoned they stood a chance of improving their position. Renault of France, who are level-pegging with Volkswagen-Audi in European markets, are already complaining they cannot keep up with demand for the RS.

This year they intend to sell 150,000 cars in West Germany, including 40 per cent RSs and improving their slice of the cake from 4½ to 5½ per cent.

Peugeot, Citroen and Talbot also want to secure their share of the West German compact market. So do Fiat and the Japanese.

tions imposed on Japanese cars in neighbouring EEC countries.

Protectionism would thus seem to be on the cards. Logically the next step must be a call for restrictions on imports from other EEC countries, which would put paid to the Common Market.

Differences of opinion on Common Agricultural Policy might have failed to end the European Community but the car war would have succeeded.

Things have fortunately not yet reached this stage. At present the European Community has no way of intervening against the Japanese.

And although a pincer movement seems to be closing in on the one-time root-and-branch free marketeers in West Germany, for the time being they can rely on the Liberal Economic Affairs Minister in Bonn.

Whether motor manufacturers will retain this common sense in the long run (and allow their association to advocate it) is another matter.

At the moment they would prefer to see the Japanese accept self-imposed restrictions on exports to Europe.

But is the Japanese government strong enough to oblige Japanese manufacturers to accept equal cuts in output? Or will they be back at each other's throats in next to no time?

Maybe not, but whatever happens an epidemic of automotive protectionism would be the worst possible outcome. It must be firmly nipped in the bud.

Gerold Lingnau

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 April 1980)

The Japanese, who at last year's Frankfurt motor show were still pool-poohed by the others, will soon command a 9-per-cent share of the market.

European manufacturers have evidently yet to hit on a valid concept to stop the Japanese, who keep on coming with attractive models at steadily less expensive prices.

Since the beginning of 1979 the exchange rate of the yen has declined 20 per cent against the Deutschmark, so the Japanese can afford to equip standard models with many extras and still hold their prices, at least in yen.

All in all the situation looks less dramatic than might have been feared early in the New Year. Sales are increasing in most European markets, including a February record 221,000 new registrations of private cars in West Germany.

In January the Motor Manufacturers Association, Frankfurt, forecast a 9-per-cent decline in production this year. Domestic sales were expected to decline by 300,000 to 2,300,000 units.

The association is still cautious despite optimistic forecasts by individual manufacturers. It wants to wait and see whether sales will level out at the February total or backslide because the February figure was a freak caused by advance orders.

Market capacity is less disputed than estimated demand for family saloons, however. Renault expect the 1.6 to two-litre class to steadily decline in importance; not so Ford and Opel.

"Despite high fuel prices there are no signs of motorists switching to smaller models," an Opel spokesman comments.

"All there can be said to have been is a trend towards not moving up to a larger model."

Daimler-Benz are unruffled by any idea there might be a shortage or prospective buyers for larger models. They have already sold out their complete year's output for 1980.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 14 April 1980)

■ MEDICINE

New drug could be breakthrough in treating rheumatism

Rheumatism and related diseases of the joints, though not killers, affect between 20 and 30 per cent of the total population.

Professor H. Hoffmeister of the National Health Office's Social Medicine Institute in Berlin says that the annual cost of treating the disease is DM7bn and he estimates the indirect cost through working days lost and early retirement at DM30 bn.

But because rheumatism is not high up in the cause-of-death statistics, it tends to be underrated. The German Rheumatism League estimates that between 3m and 5m people suffer from severe rheumatism.

They also reckon with a further increase in degenerative forms of the disease, caused by "wear and tear." The main reasons for this is greater life expectancy and thus an increase in possible causes of wear and tear on the joints.

Progress in therapy for the most serious forms of rheumatic diseases has been slow. About 20 per cent of all forms of chronic polyarthritis (chronic rheumatism of the joints) is largely incurable: patients become cripples, increasingly unable to move, in need of care.

Sudden improvement in many cases

W. Meyer of Eilbeck Hospital in Hamburg pointed out that in half of these cases, the patient's condition suddenly improves and the symptoms disappear without treatment.

A new anti-rheumatism drug, piroxicam, has been developed which could be a breakthrough in rheumatism therapy. It has powerful anti-rheumatic effects (average daily dose only 20 milligrams) and a long half-life period, which means that one tablet a day is enough to achieve a steady concentration of the substance in the blood.

Piroxicam, now being marketed under the trade name Felden, was synthesised over 15 years ago in the research laboratories of the American company Pfizer in Groton — a fine example of the development of a specific drug for specific diseases.

Scientists E. H. Wiseman and J. Lombardino worked quite systematically: they manipulated the molecules until they came up with the properties they wanted. At last they came up with a derivative of oenolic acid of the oxamic class of substances, which has no chemical similarity to any known anti-rheumatism drug.

The effect of this substance is at least partly attributable to a property other than anti-rheumatic drugs also have, namely the prevention of prostaglandin synthesis.

Piroxicam also attacks the white blood corpuscles, the "inflammation cells", slowing down or preventing them from getting to the centre of the inflammation.

There are no longer any doubts about the clinical effectiveness of the substance. There have been many controlled studies of the most important rheumatic



There has only been one long-term study in West Germany, that of M. Schattenkirchner of Munich University Polyclinic and H. Müller-Fassbender of the Bad Abbach Rheuma Centre, dealing with rheumatic disease which hardly responds to treatment: spondylitis ankylosans, also known as Morbus Bechterew.

This is a chronic inflammation of the spine leading to increasing deformity and stiffness. The two rheumatologists used piroxicam as well as physical therapy on 83 patients. The treatment not only led to a rapid reduction of subjective complaints but also to a clear improvement in patients' mobility. A striking feature of the treatment was the normalisation of the blood settling velocity, a sign that inflammation processes are being directly influenced. It is not yet clear what immunological mechanisms are affected.

At a Rheumatism Symposium in Hamburg, Schattenkirchner described the side-effects of piroxicam as comparatively slight. He found that 80 per cent of the spondylitis patients had "an extremely good tolerance of the substance."

The main side-effect of all non-steroid anti-rheumatism drugs is the irritation of the mucous membrane of the stomach, which can even lead to ulcers. Piroxicam is better than other anti-rheumatic drugs in this respect.

A final judgement cannot, however, be made until the drug has been tried on more rheumatism patients.

The three pillars of rheumatism therapy are: physical (heat, cold and movement), anti-rheumatism drugs and operation. As with many other chronic diseases, it is essential that diagnosis should be swift and that the patient should get specific individual treatment from the beginning.

Professor H. Mathies of the Bad Abbach rheumatism centre complained recently of the many wrong diagnoses and false therapy in this area.

As for anti-rheumatism drugs, one has

the impression that rheumatic diseases are getting easier to treat as more and more anti-rheumatic drugs come onto the market. However these drugs are primarily symptomatic, drugs that anaesthetise or eliminate pains and inflammation.

Then come so-called basis therapeutic which do not, as the name suggests, attack the cause of the disease but form the matrix of therapy. Doctors hope that in the long term they can prevent or reduce rheumatic inflammation which, in the case of polyarthritis, first attacks the capsular ligaments, then destroys the articular cartilage and finally attacks and deforms the bones. However, treatment with these basis therapeutics is not usually enough in itself.

Patients say what they think about hospital

West German hospitals are expensive and ultra-modern — but cold and impersonal, according to a poll among patients by Ifas, the Institute of Applied Social Sciences.

The poll, commissioned by the Bonn Ministry of Labour, asked patients if they would go back to the hospital they had last been in.

Only 38 per cent said they would; 23 per cent said the last hospital they had been in had been unsatisfactory; 61 per cent said it had been "acceptable on the whole" but they still would not want to go back to it.

The Allensbach Demoscopy Institute has found that one in two patients is afraid of hospital, and 45 per cent have the feeling of being "powerless and defenceless."

West German hospitals treat 11m patients a year. Their pulses are no longer taken by nurses. Instead they can hear their heartbeats over loudspeakers. Humming computers transmit data on vital functions on to TV monitors. One nurse at Grosshadem Clinic in Munich said that there were so many patients that some were simply forgotten and left sitting in wheelchairs in the corridors.

Hospitals are getting bigger and more

It is noteworthy that the frequency of side-effects of the various substances differs according to what rheumatic diseases are being treated. Piroxicam, for example has more negative side-effects when used on chronic polyarthritis than on spondylitis patients.

Rheumatism is of course not only a disease but a number of diseases having in common that they attack the musculoskeletal apparatus and the skeleton. The cause of rheumatism is still unknown, but for some metabolic diseases which affect the joints and are thus classified as rheumatism — gout for example.

For this reason alone it is clear that not all rheumatic diseases will be treated in the same way to the same drug, apart from individual peculiarities.

We can only expect a breakthrough in rheumatism therapy when the causes have been discovered and the cellular or molecular mechanism of the disease revealed.

Jochen Aumüller
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 April)



expensive. The new hospital in Munich for example is 80 metres high and according to an advertising brochure comfortable as a three-star hotel.

The huge clinic in Aachen now being built will be the biggest closed building complex in Europe — 250 metres by 135 metres wide, eight stories, "equipped" with 24 50-metre towers, 1500 beds, 52 operating theatres. Who would want to be a patient there?

Professor Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann, head of the Allensbach Institute, says: "The number of doctors is increasing and hospitals are ultramodern but at the same time the coldness and anonymity which depresses patients is increasing."

This is clear from the first poll. Out of 51 per cent of the 2,788 people asked, 51 per cent thought doctors were overworked and one in four patients rated them as "authoritarian" or "nervous, rushed."

Only 21 per cent said that doctors had time for their patients.

The replies to questions on staffing personnel are equally alarming: 66 per cent did say that nurses and orderlies were "willing to help" but 43 thought the staff were overworked. Whereas the past nurses had a reputation for being self-sacrificing and selfless, the main impression today is one of professionalism and functionalism. Only 2 per cent thought hospital staff were "self-sacrificing."

Only 14 per cent thought that patients in clinics were treated "individually." Only 20 per cent thought they had "time for patients."

Patients' judgement of the staff competence is damning: they say that only 37 believe that nurses and orderlies are "competent."

Another result of the poll that should make politicians think is that 73 per cent of patients prefer small hospitals which, according to the Hospital Finance Law, are no longer to receive government subsidies. Peter Jentsch (Die Welt, 10 April)

■ HEALTH

New sign language helps deaf to talk about complex subjects

Deaf children in most European countries are forced to lip-read to communicate with non-deaf children in school. However, as soon as the teacher leaves the classroom they start using their own sign language, which enables complex communication even though some educators regard it as an inadequate substitute. This incorrect view can be attributed to the fact that up to now knowledge of the study of human language has been confined almost exclusively to the spoken and written word.

From this point of view it is hardly surprising that the organisers of the Dahlem (Berlin) conferences held every four years had to postpone a planned workshop on the education of deaf and dumb children. The basic questions about similarities and differences between sign language and spoken language still have not been answered. And so 46 leading scientists in different fields were invited to Berlin to discuss: "Sign language and spoken language: biological limitations of linguistic form."

What emerged was that a radical rethink is needed. Sign languages are for more than gestures and mime. By means of them, people can communicate on the most complex subjects.

This, unfortunately, does not apply to the German speaking countries but primarily to ASL — American Sign Language. As comparisons showed, this lan-

guage has developed completely independently of the English language environment. ASL has been systematically developed and is now used in the third generation of deaf families.

Even the experts in Berlin were astonished at the ease and perfection with which deaf and dumb American colleagues could talk about scientific problems. The conference was attended by one of the hundred specially trained ASL interpreters in the USA. There are even poems and plays in American sign language.

Ursula Bellugi of the Salk Institute of Biological Studies in California said that the study of sign language raised fundamental questions about the nature of language such as "What would language be like if it were not based on the voice and the ear?"

Latest research shows that spoken language and sign language have the same basic elements: in spoken language we have arbitrary and, in isolation, meaningless sounds (phonemes) which are formed into the smallest meaningful units (morphemes); then there is the grammatical level, a structure in which single signs and words are "bound together." The sounds and the rules for their combination differ from one language to the next but this basic structure is common to all languages.

A superficial view, according to Mrs Bellugi, led scientists to assume that

sign language was just a collection of pictorial gestures such as non-deaf people also use (scratching one's head, shrugging one's shoulders, pointing to someone, etc.). However, it has since become clear that sign language also uses sets of phonemes and rules for the combination of these units. Although some of the origins of sign language may be pictorial in origin, they have been subdivided into these small units and subjected to grammatical laws. Only thus is it possible that new or complex contexts can be represented by signs and understood with the eyes.

Of course there are also important differences between spoken and sign languages. The possibilities of expression influence grammatical structure whether the language is spoken or sign language. It is hardly surprising that ASL signs take twice as long to make as the corresponding words. The amazing thing is that this does not affect the speed of the statement as a whole: in a given period of time as much can be said in ASL as in spoken English. So it is obviously the listener's capacity for absorbing and understanding the message which determines the speed of any language.

Finger language, in which the deaf imitate the sounds they have lip-read, takes twice as long as ASL or spoken English to say a given thing. It does not have the same grammatical structures. This fact could be regarded as proof that the communication systems the deaf and dumb are normally required to learn are inadequate.

The case of American sign language exemplifies clearly how a logical capacity for communication must be structured. First an "inner language" and a vocabulary of concepts must be developed. Deaf and dumb children should learn this inner language as early and as thoroughly as possible. Only if this is done to they have a complete basis for translation into and from other languages.

This problem can be illustrated by looking at children brought up bilin-

gually who are not at home in either language unless they can learn the inner structures.

This means that lip-reading and finger-language should only be first "foreign languages" for deaf and dumb children.

The Berlin experts called for scientists and the general public to accept these new findings the most important of which is that sign languages are self-sufficient independent languages. "This brings hope to the deaf but also shows what a long research and the teaching of the deaf still have to go."

Professor Detlev Ploog of the Munich Max Planck Institute was probably speaking for many when he said: "I have given up my prejudices against sign language."

Justin Westhoff

(Der Tagespiegel, 2 April 1980)

Blind children learn from zoo experiment

Cologne Zoo holds special lessons for blind children in which the children are allowed to touch the animals and can form an impression of what they look like.

The scheme has proved a great success according to the Zoo's magazine: "Seeing with our hands — we have had very positive experience with this scheme here in the zoo. These lessons are an essential step in getting to know the world about us."

This was written by Theodor Düren, headmaster of the Land Blind School in Düren.

Teachers of the blind regret that only a few zoos in West Germany have special classes for blind children: Cologne, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Hanover.

The reluctance of zoos is understandable, though. Brigitte Apel of Hanover Zoo says: "As the children get most of their information by touch, we have to allow them to touch selected animals." And zoo keepers are not happy about their animals being touched because there is a danger of infection and changes in animal behaviour.

Wolf Haferkamp, director of the Cologne Zoo School, says: "We only make an exception in the case of the blind, because they cannot learn any other way than by touch."

Zoo school teachers say that blind children are their most attentive and grateful pupils, but visits from blind children also mean a lot of work. The animals used in teaching have to be extremely patient. Zoo keepers often spend weeks observing animals to see which of them are most suitable to be used in teaching. "Zoo animals are not pets after all. They are not used to being touched."

The 150 blind children at Düren school will have to wait for a while before they can grasp what an elephant looks like. "Our elephant has turned nasty and he has even started attacking keepers. It would be too risky at the moment," snakes, on the other hand, are very patient. Blind children in Cologne put their hands on the python Elise and feel it moving. Other animals they are allowed to touch are: parrots, penguins, asses, goats, monkeys and sea bears. In Hanover, they are even allowed to touch lion and lion and tiger cubs sometimes. Blind children learn what certain animals smell like and what noises they make. "And they are able to find their way around when they visit the zoo with their parents."

Benjamin Heinrichs
(Die Zeit, 28 March 1980)

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 April 1980)

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RELIGION

Sacrifices and rewards: why women take holy orders

Age-old masonry, long, dark corridors and oppressive silence are the hallmarks of a convent, the home of women who have chosen to renounce the world-life and become nuns.

What makes women take holy orders? Are they disappointed by life, by people? I wondered as I knocked at the door of the convent of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

They are members of an international order represented in West Germany, Holland, Latin America, Africa and Indonesia. Their headquarters are in Münster, Westphalia, from where 648 sisters in 39 units are supervised.

I was expected and am taken straight away to the novitiate, which is where novices, young sisters who have yet to take full orders, spend their first years alongside a number of older nuns.

From the distance I can hear loud laughter and shouting. I am welcomed in a cordial, hearty manner by two young girls in grey convent uniform.

Shortly afterwards I am sitting alongside them and Sister Canisia, the provincial mother superior, and Sister Sebastia, who is in charge of the novitiate.

We are seated in a brightly lit room decorated in a modern manner. The women seem self-assured, open-minded and curious to hear my questions.

Before joining the order they were all involved in youth work of some kind or other. The two novices studied social work and theology respectively.

"Sooner or later," one says, "I felt that what I was doing was not enough. I felt a powerful inner compulsion. I resisted it, travelling and living the good life."

"But there was no getting away from the feeling and I decided to take orders. Yet I had to promise my parents I would return home the moment I felt unhappy."

"I tried to do more for Christ," says Sister Hildegard, 25. "But I was always somewhat out on a limb and found no-one who really seemed to share my outlook on life."

"Then I came here and immediately sensed that people here might not be perfect but they were on a quest and heading in the same direction as me."

True enough, there is no mistaking the atmosphere. It is the way the women treat each other, listening with

interest to what they all say and trying to understand what they hear.

Discussion, conversation and criticism are fundamental components of community life. "A woman who takes holy orders must first and foremost be able to communicate," says the Mother Superior.

"A community of such different characters and temperaments would be impossible if we were not to speak frankly about everything that upsets us."

How much leeway does the individual nun have for herself or for a more intensive relationship with someone else?

"Provided the needs of the individual are not directed against the aims of the community," says Sister Sebastia, "we feel it is important for everyone to be able to close the door and be on their own now and again."

"Nowadays a close friendship between two nuns is readily accepted too."

But why is a close relationship with a man out of the question? Nuns take an oath pledging themselves to poverty, obedience and chastity for Christ's sake.

"We can only fulfill this vow by means of personal love of Christ," one nun explains. What does this exclusive love of God exactly mean?

"Can you tell me exactly why you love a particular man?" the Mother Superior asks in reply. "In a happy marriage a special relationship evolves over the years until the time comes when you are no longer interested in another man."

"A nun must exclusively love God to the extent that in the long term she is incapable of marriage because Christ has become everything to her."

It is difficult for the nuns to define this relationship exactly or even to talk about their love of God. Outsiders are probably not in a position to fully understand the radical nature of the religious life.

Yet they readily admit that going without a partner and dispensing with sexuality, children and a family is frequently felt to be extremely difficult.

There are times when all of them have wondered whether it was all worth while. A firm belief in everlasting life in God is an important factor in their resolve.

"If I didn't believe fulfillment and



'On a quest and heading in the same direction': Sister Hildegard and Sister Canisia of the Sisters of Divine Providence.

happiness really began, after death I would resign here and now," one sister comments.

A fundamental cause of the hardship of the times is, as they see it, the fact that people are no longer capable of religious belief and try to understand the world solely in rational terms.

Providence is their answer to hardship, but they no longer regard relieving material hardship of social outcasts as their main mission in life.

Hardship nowadays is felt to be the increasing sense of loneliness felt by the individual, fear of life, the dissolution of the family, the vain search for a purpose in life.

Nuns try to counter this hardship by practising exemplary love of their neighbours as nurses, old folks' helps, kindergarten teachers, schoolteachers and pastoral assistants.

Their aim is to heed the freedom and dignity of the individual regardless how poor, old or sick he or she may be.

"If I make a point of not bustling a dying person into a bathroom, staying by him in his hour of need and holding his hand, then surely I can bring a little more humanity into my immediate surroundings."

To what extent is this more than patchwork? Is it just relief for the individual or does it have a wider effect on society?

Their work concentrates on the individual, they say, but they are well-aware of the need for political commitment, although they do not think so much in terms of party politics.

Instead they aim to bring specific influence to bear on government activities by means, say, of active membership of professional organisations.

They recently backed a full-scale protest to the Bonn government against the planned reduction in nursing staff at old people's homes.

The younger nuns in particular said there was no such thing as an ideal political party, one that endorsed their values in the way they would prefer.

What about the role of women in society today? This is the first question that makes them stop and think. They are not directly subjected to masculine tutelage.

They themselves decide on the rules that govern their lives. Within the order democratic structures prevail.

Fundamental decisions are taken by delegates elected by the entire membership to a kind of Parliament. The Mother Superior is also elected for a maximum of two six-year terms, then she returns to ordinary status.

"Men and women must be equal in

SPORT

End of the road for a young driver

Formula 2 motor racing is regarded by many young drivers as no more than a step in the direction of a Formula 1 career. At the beginning of this season, Markus Höttinger, a 23-year-old

was one of those who felt this his chance of making the grade. In the first qualifying race for the 2 European championship, held in Milton, England, on Easter Monday, he was stuck in the first lap.

In the second race, at Hockenheim on April 1, he was injured in a crash on the fourth lap and died within an hour. He was at least Formula 2 was not to step in the direction of Formula 1; the end of the road.

Höttinger, who had made a name for himself in rally racing, was not the only driver to miss out on the chequered flag at Hockenheim.

But she too calls for consideration. Breakneck overtaking, speeding round the track and hubcap-to-hubcap challenges, testifies — the desire to cars, had a quarter neither asked nor given, led to a number of crashes and collisions.

"Ruthless work goes on at the wheel," Manfred Winkelhock from Walby, near Stuttgart, after he had spun out of the Thuringian course following a collision.

In Hockenheim he planned to give as good as he got, but it was all over in a matter of seconds when he collided with de Cesaris. The two fastest drivers had knocked each other out, as racing jargon would have it.

In races with cars that boast fully-enclosed passenger compartments crashes and collisions are regarded as just part of the game.

Take, for instance, Klaus Ludwig, the reigning national champion, in a qualifying race at Hockenheim this season. Coming into the home straight on the last lap he went in for a little "panel beating" with his main rival Axel Plankenhorn.

The two cars nudged each other in much the same way as soccer players use their elbows or ice hockey players their padding.

Ludwig, at the wheel of a Ford Capri Turbo, succeeded in this last-minute bid to dislodge Plankenhorn, driving a Porsche 935 Turbo, from first place.

His foul cost a DM500 penalty but the fine was more than offset by DM1,500 prize money and the admiration of 50,000 spectators keen to see the thrills and spills.

Everyone knew that although cars may be written off in manoeuvres of this kind, drivers seldom come to much harm. But this is only true of races in enclosed vehicles.

In Formula racing such collisions can easily become a matter of life and death. Wheels jut out from the car bodies. There is no bodywork to protect the driver. Cars are lightweight and easily nudged off the track.

Broken wheel suspension units, severed wheels and shreds of car body can prove lethal weapons after a crash.

This was how Markus Höttinger came to grief. Four cars were involved in a collision and the Austrian youngster, who enjoyed a reputation for being level-headed, was struck on the head by a loose wheel.

The risk is much greater in Formula racing but many young and ambitious drivers readily take it. It is all or nothing.

reigning national champion, in a qualifying race at Hockenheim this season. Coming into the home straight on the last lap he went in for a little "panel beating" with his main rival Axel Plankenhorn.

The two cars nudged each other in much the same way as soccer players use their elbows or ice hockey players their padding.

Ludwig, at the wheel of a Ford Capri Turbo, succeeded in this last-minute bid to dislodge Plankenhorn, driving a Porsche 935 Turbo, from first place.

His foul cost a DM500 penalty but the fine was more than offset by DM1,500 prize money and the admiration of 50,000 spectators keen to see the thrills and spills.

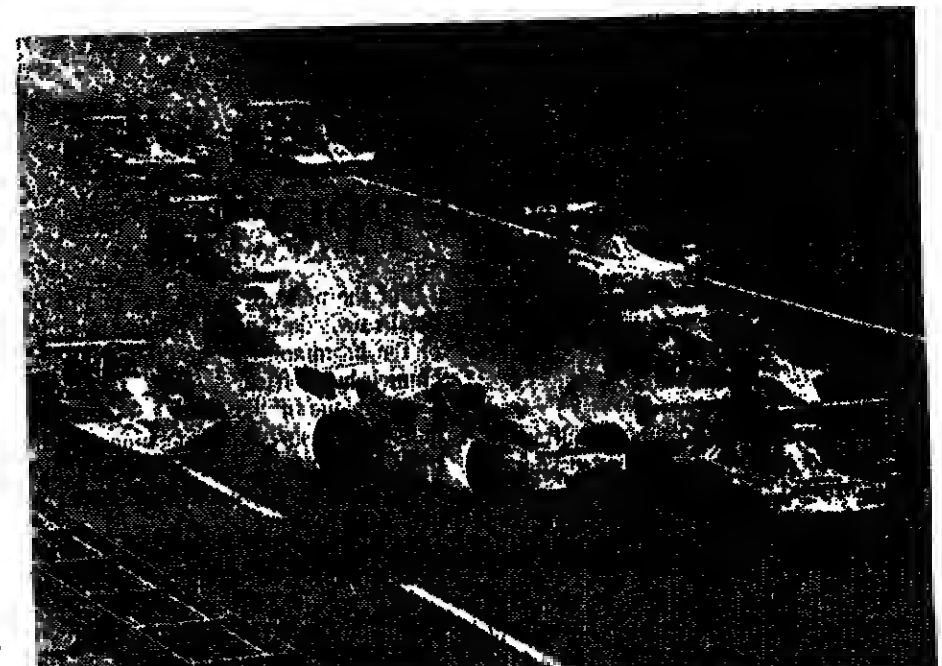
Everyone knew that although cars may be written off in manoeuvres of this kind, drivers seldom come to much harm. But this is only true of races in enclosed vehicles.

In Formula racing such collisions can easily become a matter of life and death. Wheels jut out from the car bodies. There is no bodywork to protect the driver. Cars are lightweight and easily nudged off the track.

Broken wheel suspension units, severed wheels and shreds of car body can prove lethal weapons after a crash.

This was how Markus Höttinger came to grief. Four cars were involved in a collision and the Austrian youngster, who enjoyed a reputation for being level-headed, was struck on the head by a loose wheel.

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Collisions a matter of life or death (Photo: Baumann)

ing, and many drivers can count themselves lucky if all they do is draw a blank.

The attraction of Formula 1 seems to exercise a dangerous spell on Formula 2, a class in which youngsters on their way up the career ladder compete in cars that are not quite as expensive or sophisticated.

Drivers who want to prove their worth must do so in Formula 2 at the latest — or put paid to hopes of the big time. So ambitious youngsters make the going.

There was a time when Formula 1 racing drivers went in for Formula 2 events too. But no longer. They find Formula 2 has grown too dangerous to be worth the risk.

Many youngsters enter for Formula 2 races at the age of 18 or 19, and it remains to be seen whether they are ready for Formula racing. Often they are not, with disastrous results.

A new generation is on the way up, an Automobilclub von Deutschland

press release announced in advance publicity for the Jim Clark Race in Hockenheim.

Young drivers who made names for themselves in the small time last season are now entering in large numbers for the season's Formula 2 races.

But a single winter is often much too short to adapt to what is undeniably a tremendous change. Scruples and responsibility are cast aside in the headlong rush to the top.

Manfred Winkelhock is an old hand at 28. He is the last member of the former BMW junior team who is still out in the cold. The others, Surer, Cheever and Giacomelli, have all made the transition to Formula 1.

He must feel disappointed, still down in the Second Division and condemned to being dismissed as second-rate. Others step on it to get to the top at any price rather than suffer this fate.

Rolf Heggen (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 April 1980)

This, of course, was the proviso, but with concentration and a clear head he was the first player to defeat Stellan Bengtsson in the entire tournament. He also beat Ulf Thorsell and Ulf Carlsson.

Hans-Wilhelm Gäh, vice-president of the West German Table Tennis Association and himself a former member of the national team, referred to Stelliwag's "strokes of genius."

But coach Korpa did not entirely agree. "He gets himself into too many critical scrapes. After a series of super-shots he takes it easy, which detracts from his value, is dangerous and often spells defeat."

Yet Stelliwag seems on the way too taking this criticism to heart. "There are times when I don't even understand myself," he is on record as saying.

Three times in succession he was national youth champion, and in 1974 runner-up in the European youth championships. He has since failed to live up to expectations.

He was admired in his club rather than encouraged to do even better. His aim and grace, his curses and theatrical attitudes that put him out of his stride were tolerated.

In Bern he was the picture of concentration and gave rise to hopes. Hans-Wilhelm Gäh put like this: "I reckon we shall sort out Peter yet. At 23 he is still in the early days of his career."

On today's form Peter is one of the all-time greats. (Die Welt, 10 April 1980)

Table-tennis team misses title by hair's breadth



Ursula Kamizuru, of Duisburg, one of the fourth-place getters in the women's individual section of the European table-tennis championships in Bern.

His previous games had been average to mediocre, but his showing in the final elicited praise from Eberhard Schöler, world championship runner-up in 1969, who is not given to hasty praise.

"On today's form Peter is one of the all-time greats," he said.

No-one was complaining. "Wilfried

runners-up in the European championship finals, having come back behind to almost snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, the West German table tennis team sat back and

was half past two in the morning when they left their Bern hotel. They didn't know whether to laugh or cry. They had just

lost 4-0 in 4 hours 10 minutes playing Sweden. They were 2-0 down, 3-1 down, 4-2 down and drew level at four-all. Then they finally lost 5-4.

Eleven years after losing 5-3 to Japan in the Munich world championships it was the first major achievement by a German table tennis team and its appearance in the European championships.

So they might well have been happy. Chief coach Istvan Korpa voiced the shared feelings they all shared: "Sure, the Swedes were favourites. We have lived so badly this season that such a narrow defeat was much better than we had any reason to expect."

But when a gold medal is only a hair's away you are understandably disappointed to miss out by a hair's breadth.

Wilfried Liedt, a 34-year-old primary school teacher from Altfeld, Westphalia, has been particularly disappointed. After the team had drawn level his encounter with the final game, was the decider. He fought to the brink of exhaustion, losing to Ulf Carlsson, 15 years his junior,

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